



NEWSLETTER



October 2011

Washington State FSA Office

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Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

State Staff

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County office contact
information can be found at:
http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/sto_dir.pdf
OR
<http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=wa&agency=fsa>

NOTICE: Due to funding cuts, no paper newsletters will be printed until FSA has a budget and funding to print and mail newsletters. Until then, an electronic newsletter will be posted on the FSA WA web site (around the 15th of each month).

Signing up for newsletters

If you are interested in receiving newsletters via email or text alert, please visit www.fsa.usda.gov/wa and sign up. Select "email updates" in the lower right navigation box. Complete dialogue boxes and when asked preferences, select updates by state and county, then select the "+" next to Washington. Select state/counties of interest.

2011 DCP Final Payments

FSA began issuing DCP payments for 2011 participants on Oct. 11, 2011. Payments are being deposited directly into participating producers' bank accounts.

2012 DCP Sign-Up

Enrollment for the 2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) begins January 23, 2012. Producers can make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up, or they can visit the FSA office to complete their 2012 DCP contract. Because the 2008 Farm Bill does not authorize advance direct payments for 2012, the 2012 DCP and ACRE sign-up is delayed until January so county office employees can expedite disaster assistance sign-up this fall.

The direct payment rate will remain the same as last year. Base acres earning payment will increase from 83.3% to 85%.

Disaster Program Signups

Enrollment for 2010 crop losses under the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) program begins Nov. 14, 2011. Sign-up for 2011 crop losses will be accepted in the fall of 2012, when the 2011 farm revenue data required by statute becomes available.

Sign-up is currently underway for 2011 losses for the Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP), the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), and the Tree Assistance Program (TAP). For all programs, the weather event causing loss must have occurred prior to Oct. 1, 2011. Final reporting dates for losses vary by program so producers should report losses as soon as loss or damage becomes apparent.

Sign-up ends Jan. 30, 2012, for LFP, LIP, and ELAP.

Livestock deaths must occur before Nov. 30, 2011 for LIP.

County Committee Elections

Watch your mailbox for the official county office committee election ballot starting early in November. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters starting Nov. 4, 2011. If for some reason you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office.

Completed and signed ballots are due back in the county office by the close of business on Dec. 5, 2011.

Grain Loans Available

Producers may obtain low cost, 9-month loans using their eligible 2011 crops as collateral. The crop may be farm or warehouse stored. The interest rate is the rate in effect when the loan is disbursed. The current rate is 1.125%. Loan rates vary by county and can be obtained from your local office or at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/ldppcpStateInfo>.

Seed Invoice and Tags Needed for CRP Cost Share

If you are seeding CRP this fall remember that you will need to submit the invoice and seed tag to qualify for cost sharing. The percent purity and percent germination is

Continued on next page

Program Signup Deadlines

Jan. 30, 2012 - LIP
Jan. 30, 2012 - LFP
Jan. 30, 2012 - ELAP

NAP Deadlines

2012 Crop Year

Nov. 20, 2011 - All Perennial crops not listed under the 9/30 category (berries, fruit trees, grapes, asparagus); honey

March 15, 2012 - Spring planted crops, small grain forages (including wheat, barley, and oats including annual pea forage), mustard, radish (for seed or fresh), and summer planted buckwheat

Other Important Dates

Nov. 14, 2011 - SURE signup begins

Dec. 5, 2011 - COC election ballots due

needed to confirm the correct pounds of pure live seed for each species that has been planted. If all this information is contained on the invoice, then only the invoice will be needed. Remember to report your seeding as soon as possible after you are done to receive your cost share payment.

Farm Loan Program Limits

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or you regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans have a maximum limit of \$1,214,000 starting on Oct. 1, 2011.

The one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans has increased from 1 percent to 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan, for loans obligated after Oct. 1, 2011.

To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and or members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises with financing through either direct or

guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- has operated a farm not more than 10 years
- will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA service center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Hispanic and Women Farmers

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established.

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

For additional information contact:
Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process: www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429.

Pigford - The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation: www.blackfarmerscase.com or call 1-866-950-5547.

Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement: www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.